

with visual impairments to work more without penalty, we would increase both their tax contribution and their purchasing power. By doing so we would also bring additional funds into the Social Security trust fund and the Federal Treasury.

I urge my colleagues to join me in sponsoring this important legislation to restore the fair and equal treatment for the blind citizens of America. The Blind Persons' Earnings Act of 2008 will provide the blind population with the same freedom and opportunities as our Nation's seniors and the rest of the citizens of this Nation.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be placed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2559

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Blind Persons Earnings Fairness Act of 2008".

SEC. 2. INCREASE IN AMOUNT DEMONSTRATING SUBSTANTIAL GAINFUL ACTIVITY IN THE CASE OF BLIND INDIVIDUALS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 223(d)(4) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 423(d)(4)) is amended—

(1) by striking the second sentence of subparagraph (A); and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

"(C) No individual who is blind shall be regarded as having demonstrated an ability to engage in substantial gainful activity on the basis of monthly earnings in any taxable year that do not exceed an amount equal to—

"(i) in the case of earnings in the taxable year beginning after December 31, 2007, and before January 1, 2009, \$1,800 per month;

"(ii) in the case of earnings in the taxable year beginning after December 31, 2008, and before January 1, 2010, \$2,200 per month;

"(iii) in the case of earnings in the taxable year beginning after December 31, 2009, and before January 1, 2011, \$2,500 per month;

"(iv) in the case of earnings in the taxable year beginning after December 31, 2010, and before January 1, 2012, \$2,850 per month; and

"(v) in the case of earnings in a taxable year beginning after December 31, 2011, the exempt amount applicable under section 203(f)(8) to an individual who has attained retirement age (as defined in section 216(1)) before the close of the taxable year involved.".

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2007.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 426—CONGRATULATING THE STANFORD UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY TEAM ON WINNING THE 2007 NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION DIVISION I CHAMPIONSHIP

Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mrs. BOXER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 426

Whereas the Stanford University Cardinal won the 2007 National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Women's Cross Country Championship on November 19, 2007, in Terre Haute, Indiana;

Whereas the Cardinal won every postseason race and maintained a top ranking throughout the 2007 season;

Whereas in 2007 the Cardinal won a Division I women's cross country title for the 3rd year in a row and the 5th time in school history;

Whereas Arianna Lambie, Lauren Centrowitz, and Katie Harrington were honored as All-Americans for their exceptional contributions during the 2007 season; and

Whereas the 2007 Stanford women's cross country team members are players Arianna Lambie, Lauren Centrowitz, Katie Harrington, Alexandra Gits, Teresa McWalters, Lindsay Allen, Kate Niehaus, Alicia Follmar, Maddie Omeara, and Lindsay Flacks, and coaches Peter Tegen and David Vidal: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate congratulates the Stanford University women's cross country team for winning the 2007 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Championship.

SENATE RESOLUTION 427—CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT BERKELEY MEN'S WATER POLO TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2007 NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION DIVISION I CHAMPIONSHIP

Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mrs. BOXER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 427

Whereas the University of California at Berkeley (California) Golden Bears won the 2007 National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Men's Water Polo Championship, 8-6, over the University of Southern California Trojans on December 2, 2007, at the Avery Aquatics Center at Stanford University;

Whereas the California Golden Bears had a 28-4 overall record during the 2007 season;

Whereas in 2007 the California Golden Bears won a Division I men's water polo title for the 2nd year in a row and the 13th time in school history;

Whereas Michael Sharf was named the 2007 NCAA Tournament Most Valuable Player, Zac Monsees, and Jeff Tyrrell were named to the NCAA Tournament 1st team, and Spencer Warden was named to the NCAA Tournament 2nd team; and

Whereas Michael Sharf, Zac Monsees, and Mark Sheredy were named as first-team All-Americans, Adam Haley was named a second-team All-American, and Jeff Tyrrell and Spencer Warden were selected as third-team All-Americans for their exceptional contributions during the 2007 season: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate congratulates the University of California at Berkeley men's water polo team for winning the 2007 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Championship.

SENATE RESOLUTION 428—CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WOMEN'S SOCCER TEAM ON WINNING THE 2007 NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION DIVISION I CHAMPIONSHIP

Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mrs. BOXER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 428

Whereas the University of Southern California (USC) Trojans won the 2007 National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Women's Soccer Championship by a 2-0 victory over the Florida State University Seminoles on December 9, 2007, at the Aggie Soccer Complex in College Station, Texas;

Whereas the USC Trojans, in the 2007 season, had a 20-3-2 overall record, with 13 goals allowed, 15 shutouts, and a perfect 6-0 mark in the NCAA Women's Soccer Tournament, including 5 shutouts;

Whereas the USC Trojans won a Division I women's soccer title for the first time in school history in 2007;

Whereas Marihelen Tomer and Janessa Currier each scored a goal in the championship game;

Whereas Amy Rodriguez was named the tournament's Most Outstanding Offensive Player, Kristin Olsen was named the tournament's Most Outstanding Defensive Player, and Marihelen Tomer, Kasey Johnson, and Janessa Currier were named to the All-Tournament Team;

Whereas Ashley Nick and Kristin Olsen earned All-American Honors for their exceptional contributions during the 2007 season; and

Whereas the 2007 USC women's soccer team members are players Kristin Olsen, Brittany Massro, Nini Loucks, Alyssa Davila, Laura McKee, Kat Stolpa, Lauren Brown, Shannon Lacy, Ashli Sandoval, Jamie Petrossi, Stacey Strong, Karter Haug, Amy Rodriguez, Kasey Johnson, Jacquelyn Johnston, Janessa Currier, Ashley Nick, Marihelen Tomer, Meagan Holmes, Megan Ohai, Kelley Finch, Briana Ovbude, Amy Massey, Kate Gong, and Monique Gaxiola, and coaches Ali Khosroshahin, Harold Warren, Laura Janke, Alicia Lloyd, and Rosa Anna Tantillo: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate congratulates the University of Southern California women's soccer team for winning the 2007 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Championship.

SENATE RESOLUTION 429—HONORING THE BRAVE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD WHOSE TIRELESS WORK, DEDICATION, AND COMMITMENT TO PROTECTING THE UNITED STATES HAVE LED TO THE CONFISCATION OF OVER 350,000 POUNDS OF COCAINE AT SEA DURING 2007

Mrs. DOLE (for herself, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. BURR, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. SNOWE, and Ms. CANTWELL) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

S. RES. 429

Whereas the estimated import value of the 350,000 pounds of cocaine confiscated by the United States Coast Guard in 2007 is more

than \$4,700,000,000, or nearly ½ of the Coast Guard's annual budget;

Whereas the Coast Guard's at-sea drug interdictions are making a difference in the lives of United States citizens, as evidenced by the reduced supply of cocaine in more than 35 major cities throughout the United States;

Whereas keeping illegal drugs from reaching our shores, where they undermine American values and threaten families, schools, and communities, continues to be an important national priority;

Whereas, through robust interagency teamwork, collaboration with international partners, and ever more effective tools and tactics, the Coast Guard has removed more than 2,000,000 pounds of cocaine during the past 10 years and will continue to tighten the web of detection and interdiction at sea; and

Whereas the men and women of the Coast Guard who, while away from family and hundreds of miles from our shores, execute this dangerous mission, as well as other vital maritime safety, security, and environmental protection missions, with quiet dedication and without need of public recognition, continue to display selfless service in protecting the Nation and the American people: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors the United States Coast Guard, with its proud 217-year legacy of maritime law enforcement and border protection, along with the brave men and women whose efforts clearly demonstrate the honor, respect, and devotion to duty that ensure the parents of the United States can sleep soundly knowing the Coast Guard is on patrol; and

(2) recognizes the tireless work, dedication, and commitment that have allowed the Coast Guard to confiscate over 350,000 pounds of cocaine at sea in 2007.

SENATE RESOLUTION 430—DESIGNATING JANUARY 2008 AS “NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH”

Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. BAYH, Mr. BURR, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. COLEMAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. DODD, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. KERRY, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. OBAMA, and Mr. SPECTER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 430

Whereas youth mentoring establishes a structured and trusting relationship that brings young people together with caring individuals who offer guidance, support, and encouragement;

Whereas a growing body of mentoring research provides strong evidence of success in reducing delinquency, substance use and abuse, and academic failure;

Whereas research also shows that formal mentoring, aimed at developing the competence and character of the young person, promotes positive outcomes such as improved academic achievement, self-esteem, social skills, and career development;

Whereas mentoring offers a supportive environment in which young people can grow, expand their vision, and achieve a future that they never thought possible;

Whereas more than 15,000,000 young people in this Nation still need mentors, falling into a “mentoring gap”;

Whereas more than 4,300 mentoring programs in communities of all sizes across the

United States focus on building strong, effective relationships between mentors and mentees;

Whereas public-private mentoring partnerships bring State and local leaders together to support mentoring programs by preventing duplication of efforts, offering training in industry best practices, and helping them make the most of limited resources to benefit the Nation's youth;

Whereas coordinated national, State, regional, and local efforts continue to need Federal support to allow more youth to be connected with the power of mentoring;

Whereas several Federal agencies have come together to coordinate approaches to mentoring within the Federal Government through the Federal Mentoring Council and National Mentoring Working Group under the Corporation for National and Community Service;

Whereas the designation of January 2008 as National Mentoring Month will help call attention to the critical role mentors play in helping young people realize their potential;

Whereas the month-long celebration of mentoring will encourage more organizations across the United States, including schools, businesses, nonprofit organizations, faith institutions, foundations, and individuals to become engaged in mentoring;

Whereas National Mentoring Month will, most significantly, build awareness of mentoring and encourage more people to become mentors and help close the Nation's mentoring gap; and

Whereas the President has issued a proclamation declaring January 2008 to be National Mentoring Month and calling on the people of the United States to recognize the importance of mentoring, to look for opportunities to serve as mentors in their communities, and to observe the month with appropriate activities and programs: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the month of January 2008 as “National Mentoring Month”;

(2) recognizes with gratitude the contributions of the millions of caring volunteers who already serve as mentors and encourages more individuals to volunteer as mentors; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to observe the month with appropriate ceremonies and activities that promote the awareness of, and volunteer involvement with, youth mentoring.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I am pleased to join many of my colleagues in submitting a resolution recognizing January 2008 as National Mentoring Month.

We all know the extraordinary help and support that a good mentor can give to a child. High-quality mentoring programs can make all the difference to students in need. They can reduce negative outcomes, and help keep children on track. They can reduce drug and substance abuse and delinquency. They can enable students to stay in school instead of dropping out.

By promoting such positive outcomes, mentors enable students to obtain the skills they need to succeed in school and in life. They improve academic achievement, and they also improve self-esteem and social and communications skills.

National Mentoring Month is an opportunity to recognize and commend the many mentors across the country who are doing their part. It is also an

opportunity to raise awareness about the real value of mentoring, and encourage more adults to become mentors. Experts estimate that nearly 18 million young students could benefit from being matched with a mentor, but only about 3 million of these youth are in such a relationship today. Fifteen million youth need a mentor—but they do not have one.

Mentoring a young person doesn't just pay off for the youth; it can be beneficial for the mentor as well. For the past 12 years, I have participated in the Everybody Wins Program at Brent Elementary School near the Capitol. Once a week during the school year, I spend an hour with an elementary school student. We read together, share stories, and learn from each other. This year, my first reading partner is finishing high school, and next year she will be starting college. She has stayed in touch, and it has been amazing to see her grow.

Robert Kennedy often spoke of the ripples of hope that people send forth each time they act to help others. Mentors are a proven example of the power of each citizen to create such ripples, and we should do what we can to recognize and support them. I urge the Senate to approve this resolution.

SENATE RESOLUTION 431—CALLING FOR A PEACEFUL RESOLUTION TO THE CURRENT ELECTORAL CRISIS IN KENYA

Mr. FEINGOLD (for himself, Mr. SUNUNU, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. KERRY, Mr. BROWN, Mr. DODD, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BIDEN, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. BROWNBACK, and Ms. SNOWE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 431

Whereas on December 27, 2007, Kenyan citizens went peacefully to the polls to elect a new parliament and a new President and signaled their commitment to democracy by turning out in large numbers, and in some instances waiting in long lines to vote;

Whereas election observers reported serious irregularities and a lack of transparency that, combined with the implausibility of the margin of victory, and the swearing in of the Party of National Unity presidential candidate Mwai Kibaki with undue haste, all serve to undermine the credibility of the presidential election results;

Whereas the Government of Kenya imposed a ban on live media broadcasts that day, and shortly after the election results were announced, in contravention of Kenyan law, the Government also announced a blanket ban on public assembly and gave police the authority to use lethal force;

Whereas subsequent to declaring Mr. Kibaki the winner, the head of the Election Commission of Kenya (ECK) stated that he did not know who won the presidential election;

Whereas in the aftermath of the election announcement, significant violence began and continues to flare;

Whereas on January 1, 2008, 4 commissioners on the ECK issued a statement which